

ABSTRACT

An electronic writing instrument includes a finger pad that supports a user's finger when the user is using the writing instrument. The user's finger rests on the finger pad in such a way that a fingerprint of the user's finger can be scanned by a fingerprint scanner located in the writing instrument to obtain fingerprint data. The fingerprint data is transmitted to a computing device where the fingerprint data is converted into a private key code. Alternatively, the fingerprint data is converted into the private key code in the writing instrument and the private key code is transmitted to the computing device.

- 10 The transmission may be through a wired or wireless link. The private key code is used to create a public key code, which is incorporated into an electronic signature. The electronic signature may then be affixed to an electronic document to verify that the user signed the document.